

# Local Report: Frequently Asked Questions

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***Q: What is meant by “local” results?***

A: Results for a building, district, county, or ESD are called local results. This term is used to differentiate from statewide results generated from the state sample.

***Q: Why didn't I get a local report?***

A: You may not have received a local report at a given grade for several reasons:

- To protect student anonymity, we cannot release local results at a given grade if fewer than 15 students in your school, district, county, or ESD completed valid surveys at that grade.
- If only one school in your district, county, or ESD participated at a given grade, then we did not create an aggregate report at that grade. Refer to the local report for the participating school.
- If fewer than 70% of the students enrolled in your district, county, or ESD returned valid surveys, then RMC did not create a report at that grade because the aggregate results are not likely to be representative of the district, county, or ESD as a whole. If a county sample was drawn at a given grade in your county, then a report was created only if at least 70% of the students enrolled at the sampled schools in your county returned valid surveys.

If between 40% and 69% of the students enrolled in your district, county, or ESD returned valid survey results, then DOH created a "Report of Participating Schools" at that grade. This specialized report contains information about participation rates to help people understand how generalizable the findings are. Refer to the sample copy of the "Report of Participating Schools".

- The survey registration form provided an opportunity to request *not* to receive a building-level report. The person completing the registration form for your building may have selected this option.
- Reports for buildings and districts eligible to receive them were mailed to the district superintendents. You may need to ask your superintendent for a copy of the report.

***Q: What is the difference between “Number of students surveyed” and “Number of valid responses”?***

A: “Number of students surveyed” refers to the total number of survey forms that were submitted and scanned. After scanning, the data were run through a variety of quality control checks to remove forms whose responses were repeatedly inconsistent (e.g., reported drinking twice in the last 30 days but never drinking in their lifetime), clearly dishonest (e.g., heavy usage of a non-existent drug), or irregular (e.g., most items were left blank). The “Number of valid surveys” reflects the number of surveys that made it through the quality control process. Only the results of these valid surveys are presented in your report.

***Q: Why is the number of students who took the survey so different on different items?***

A: Not every student who completes the survey answers every question for several reasons:

- Students are permitted to skip any items they do not wish to answer.
- Two versions of the survey were administered in every school for Grades 8, 10, and 12. Some items appeared on both versions and some on only one version; consequently, items on both surveys had the potential to be completed by twice as many students as items on only one survey
- The survey is lengthy, and many students may not have reached the end; consequently items near the end of the survey are generally completed by fewer students. Because the survey was given in 3 different versions (and thus 3 different orders), questions near the end of the local report may or may not have been near the end of the survey completed by the students. For instance, the last item on the Form A version of the survey was numbered 258 on the local report, while the last item on Form B was numbered 70 and the last item on Form C was numbered 124.

***Q: What are the superscripted notes, like “A” and “°” in the question text?***

A: The survey was administered in 3 versions, and several items on each form were included at the discretion of the school. The following notes were used to document the differences between the items on different versions and note the optional items:

A = wording on Form A

B = wording on Form B

C = wording on Form C

° = answer choices presented in a different order on one or more versions of the survey

† = optional item

***Q: Why is the report so long?***

A: The survey was administered in 3 versions, each of which included items unique to that version. The 2 secondary versions included a core of common items, but Form A included additional risk and protective factor items while Form B included items similar to those traditionally included on the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Form C primarily included items drawn from Forms A and B but also included some unique items tailored to Grade 6 students. Although no version of the survey included more than 148 items (Form A had 137, Form B had 148, and Form C had 96), a total of 262 different items were administered and are included in the local reports.

***Q: How is the report organized? Why isn't it just in the same order as the survey?***

A: The survey was administered in 3 versions, each with a different emphasis and arranged in a different order. The local report combines these 3 versions and is organized by topic area: alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; other health concerns; school climate, and quality of life. The items used to compute the risk and protective factor scales are presented at the end of the report after the scales themselves.

***Q: Why is the Grade 6 report so different from the other reports?***

A: A shorter and less detailed version of the survey was administered to students in Grade 6, including only 96 of the total 262 items; consequently, the Grade 6 report is much shorter than reports for Grades 8, 10, or 12. The Grade 6 report includes the same topics areas and has the same organization as the other reports but omits items not administered to the Grade 6 students.

***Q: Why are the results missing in the section titled Selected Results Disaggregated by Gender?***

A: Breaking down the student's responses by gender creates challenges to student anonymity. If, for instance, only one girl took the survey in your building at a certain grade, she would be uniquely identified in this section. Consequently, local results were suppressed for these items if any cell (i.e., item in the results table) represented fewer than 15 students.

***Q: Why are the results missing on Item 74 (Overweight)?***

A: Because being overweight is a visibly identifiable trait, this item creates challenges to student anonymity. Consequently, local results were suppressed at the building level. These results are provided at the district, county, and ESD levels.